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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

Letter dated 1 December 1997 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to draw your attention to further consideration of agenda item 157, "United Nations reform: measures and proposals", and to possible recommendations to be provided by the Fifth Committee in this regard to the General Assembly.

In my letter of 14 November 1997 (A/C.5/52/20), I drew to your attention General Assembly resolution 52/12, entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform", for appropriate action by the Fifth Committee.

I have the honour to inform you that the consideration of the proposals of the Secretary-General continues in open-ended informal consultations of the plenary on agenda item 157, with a view to enabling the General Assembly to take appropriate action in this respect. The Fifth Committee, upon receipt of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, is expected to examine the administrative and budgetary, as well as the programme implications, of those proposals.

Given their political importance, I therefore request, through you, that the Fifth Committee take up on a priority basis the financial and budgetary implications, as contained in document A/52/303, of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/950).

(Signed) Hennadiy UDOVENKO

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